

**Present:** Julie Nelson, Adam Aba-Husain, Lauren McClain, Erica Tucker, Christina, David Berrian, Dwight Mizoguchi, Liezl Rebugio, Sindy Nguyen, Judy Summerfield, Freddie Moore, Barbara Lewy, Monica Anderson, Kathleen Groshong, Brenda Sevilla, Jacque Larrainzar, Beverly Wong

**Guest Speaker: Richard Gelb – Office for Sustainability and Environment (OSE)**

*Role at the City*

OSE exists within Mayor's office, mostly assembling, assuring implementation, tracking, and reporting the Environmental Action Agenda. It determines how to integrate sustainable approaches to key programmatic areas: air, water, sustainable forests, and urban environment.

*Environmental Justice Program*

- Creating a sustainable neighborhood involves environmental justice.
  - To develop way of looking at fairness and environmental conditions, we have departments conduct analysis for equity.
  - Is there a tendency for problems in low-income or ethnically diverse neighborhoods?
  - Are there fairness issues involving environmental resources that the department can resolve?
- After collecting information, we can analyze whether services or issues are disproportionate in specific neighborhoods compared to citywide average.
  - Example: SDOT compared average speed in residential zones and areas to those in low-income/ethnically diverse areas. If there is difference, let's see if we've historically invested more in devices in some areas. Have residents in some areas been able to get more or less resources?
  - Example: Parks Dept Utilization Environment Learning Centers. Parks looked at what schools use the centers and if use is disproportionate for less ethnically diverse neighborhoods. It found significant skew toward higher income and less diverse schools. Dept created short- and long-term plan to move to more equal proportion, including providing more busing, outreach, and making curriculum more culturally relevant.
- Survey was conducted asking how residents in neighborhoods rate environmental conditions in neighborhood, streetscapes, and housing. It found statistically significant variation. Next step is to go back to community and see if corrective actions can improve and then survey again and see if issues were addressed.
  - Interest rates on housing loans were higher in Southeast Seattle and Capitol Hill. Office of Housing could be mapping and analyzing.
  - Could look at response rates to complaints for certain neighborhoods.

*Relevance to Human Services*

- How can we connect with your work at HSD and help community to get resources? A large part of the Race and Social Justice plan deals with community involvement.
- How can we create awareness of, and be proactive in addressing, how we are contributing to uneven conditions and how not to in the future? We may be contributing to the problem unknowingly.

*Announcement:* Beverly is organizing a UIR training for homeless on March 3. It would be nice to have support from HSD UIR if the group meets continually following the training.